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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Bolivia – Floods

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

March 5, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated March 2, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- At 10:00 a.m. on March 5, a U.S. Government (USG) airlift of relief supplies arrived in Trinidad, Beni Department. The airlift included plastic tarpaulin, water containers, and hygiene kits from the USAID/OFDA stockpile in Miami, Florida, and four water pumps with a 25,000 gallon-per-hour capacity donated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). DOD, via the U.S. Southern Command, provided the transport. U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg and other USG officials, Government of Bolivia (GOB) representatives including the Chief of Civil Defense, and members of the media met the USAID–DOD airlift upon arrival.
- Two USAID disaster specialists are currently in Bolivia to conduct humanitarian assessments.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	379,485	GOB – March 5, 2007
Deaths	42	GOB – March 2, 2007
Internally Displaced Persons	25,000	OCHA ¹ – February 28, 2007

FY 2007 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$811,142**
USAID/Bolivia Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$213,640**
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$1,024,782**

CURRENT SITUATION

- Flooding has affected nearly 380,000 Bolivians. Large areas of Beni, Santa Cruz, and six other departments remain affected by flooding. Although floodwaters in Trinidad, Beni Department have begun to recede, rivers are rising in other areas of the department and may expand the flooding to new areas. Of Bolivia's 329 municipalities, 108 have been declared disaster zones.
- The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has forecast moderate to heavy rains for Trinidad and surrounding areas through March 10. The Beni regional government estimates that floodwaters will not recede for two months.

Estimates of Loss

- According to the Governor of Beni Department, \$115 million of the total \$250 million in damage has occurred in Beni. On March 1, the GOB Minister of Planning announced that flooding may have led to the loss of up to one percent of Bolivian gross domestic product.
- USAID disaster specialists on the ground are assessing conditions to determine whether additional humanitarian assistance is necessary.

Displaced Populations

- In Beni Department, flooding has affected 130,000 out of a total population of 430,000 people, according to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office. More than 14,000 Bolivians in Beni Department are displaced in temporary shelters in Trinidad alone. The number of people affected is increasing as rivers continue to overflow.
- In response to displaced populations' need for emergency shelter, USAID/OFDA has provided 290 rolls of plastic tarpaulin, enough to provide shelter for approximately 14,500 people.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On January 22, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, USAID has provided a total of \$1,024,782 to assist affected populations. USAID staff have been on the ground in Santa Cruz and Beni departments conducting assessments to determine humanitarian needs.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has supported three airlifts of humanitarian commodities to Bolivia. A February 13 airlift to

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Santa Cruz Department, worth \$177,550 including transport, included 2,000 ten-liter water containers, 1,000 hygiene kits, and 170 rolls of plastic tarpaulin. A March 2 airlift to Beni Department, valued at \$169,942 including transport, included 1,000 ten-liter water containers, 4,032 hygiene kits, and 100 rolls of plastic tarpaulin. The March 5 collaborative USAID–DOD airlift included 20 rolls of plastic tarpaulin, 4,800 ten-liter water containers, and 2,304 hygiene kits, for a total value of \$27,124 from USAID/OFDA, and four water pumps from DOD.

- Through existing programs, USAID/Bolivia has provided \$213,640 in kitchen cooking kits, temporary shelters, and health and medical supplies and services. USAID/Bolivia has also supported emergency road repairs.
- Additional assistance is listed below.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies ²	Santa Cruz Department	\$65,000
American Red Cross	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Bolivia	Health; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$100,000
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Santa Cruz Department	\$177,550
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Beni Department	\$197,066
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$170,000
	Administrative Support		\$1,526
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$811,142
USAID/BOLIVIA ASSISTANCE			
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies; Emergency Shelter; Health; and Emergency Repairs for Roads	Affected Areas	\$213,640
TOTAL USAID/BOLIVIA			\$213,640
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2007			\$1,024,782

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 5, 2007.

² Includes transport.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Bolivia may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/